

## Vertebrate Pest Management

### Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support methods of vertebrate pest management that cause undue suffering, pain or distress of an animal. While the EHS acknowledges that under certain circumstances, pest control and/or extermination may be required, the EHS only supports the use of humane methods.

### Rationale

- Regardless of the problems pest animals cause, they require the same level of consideration for their welfare as animals in other contexts.
- The EHS encourages a review of control or deterrent measures be taken prior to coming to the conclusion that extermination is required. Methods such as motion detectors, alarms and sensor lights can often be sufficient to rectify certain pest problems.
- In the event that extermination is required, the EHS recommends methods that result in a more humane death (i.e. without pain, suffering or distress). These humane, safe and cost-effective methods include catch and release and traditional quick death traps.
- Conventional methods, such as trapping (e.g. steel jawed leg hold traps), poisons and baiting strategies (e.g. cyanide) and/or inhumane burrow clearing and fumigation techniques cause an animal to experience extreme pain and suffering.
- Conventional methods of extermination often involve methods such as poisonous chemicals, which have effects on other non-target species, including humans. Other animals, children or adults can be harmed by an animal, which has been poisoned.

### References

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Rodent Control." ASPCA policy statement, New York, n.d.
2. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. "Pest Control." CVMA position statement, Ottawa, 2014.

### Notes:

- Vertebrate pests include (but are not limited to): coyotes, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, cats, squirrels, prairie dogs, gophers, rats, moles and mice.
- The EHS recommends adopting solutions to control pest issues before they begin/escalate as well as subsequent to humane control measures being implemented. Preventative measures including filling cracks in buildings, erecting fences, keeping potential 'pest infestation sites' clean, sanitary and free from food products help negate the need for any extermination issues.